

an additional inducement for people to play fair.

In addition, much of the money—in fact, two-thirds of the money—that has come from this additional revenue has been turned around and put right back out in tax cuts. You did not hear that from the other side, did you? They never mention that fact.

Well, what are the tax cuts that are in this bill? There is \$7.3 billion for conservation, including a tax credit for farmland in the Conservation Reserve Program—a program that affects over 10 million acres across the United States.

There is \$2.5 billion for energy, including a tax credit for small producers of cellulosic fuel and \$800 million for agriculture and rural areas.

Those are the tax reduction elements which are a part of this bill.

The final point I want to make is this Democratic-led Congress has rejected the failed fiscal policies of the last 2 years. We have put in place a strong pay-go rule. It is working by any standard—by any objective standard. While it would not single-handedly solve all of our problems, it is making a meaningful contribution. The fact is, the pay-go scorecard, as of this moment, shows a positive balance. That means the legislation that has been advanced has been paid for. That is a significant departure from what has gone on in the previous 6 years under the control of our colleagues on the other side.

So it is going to be a long, tough slog for us to get done what needs to be done and get America back on track, at least in the fiscal arena. While the Senator from New Hampshire and I have sharp disagreement on these matters, we are working together on a plan to bring together a bipartisan task force—16 Members; 8 Democrats, 8 Republicans—with the responsibility to come up with a plan, a long-term plan to get America back on track. In that, he and I are joined at the hip, and we are prepared to ask our colleagues to come together in a bipartisan way to develop a plan to deal with these long-term imbalances. So while we have sharp disagreement on the question of pay-go and on the question of their fiscal record versus ours, one place we are in complete agreement is on the need to face up to these long-term fiscal imbalances. That is in the interests of our country. That is in the interests of every citizen of America.

I thank the Chair.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, just very briefly if I could, I say to my col-

league, I am just going to take 30 seconds.

THANKS TO STAFF

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wanted to thank my staff director of the Senate Budget Committee. The other day I thanked all of those who have worked so hard on the farm bill, the members of my staff, including my lead negotiator and my entire negotiating team; six members of my staff. I did not thank at that time my staff director on the Senate Budget Committee, Mary Naylor.

No one has worked harder in this Chamber at the staff level to try to get us back on a fiscal track that makes sense than Mary Naylor. She has been with me many years. She was the person who ran all of my budget operations before I became chairman of the Budget Committee, and when I became chairman, I asked her to be the staff director because there is no one for whom I have higher regard than Mary Naylor, and I wanted to thank her formally and publicly today for her extraordinary commitment to making this country better.

I thank the Chair, and I yield the floor.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business without a time limit.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Ron Hindle has done a tremendous job of finding any information that I need and putting it in tremendous format so that it is easily understandable, and even writing it up in words that I can understand. He has been with me the entire time that I have been in the Senate. This is my 11th year. He has done a tremendous job. He worked for Senator Simpson before that. So I welcome him to the floor.

Mr. President, in the history of politics, I don't think anyone has ever had their finger on the pulse of the Nation quite like former President Ronald Reagan. Anyone who knew him or heard him speak was instantly warmed by his charm and captivated by his personality. He had a way of expressing himself that enabled him to connect with all of America. He had a unique way of speaking, and that unforgettable Reagan wit let everyone know he was on their side and would do everything he could to make this a better world for us all.

I remember one day in particular. It was 1992, and the Republican Convention was going strong. Ronald Reagan approached the podium to give one of his trademark speeches. As he spoke, something told us that this night, this speech, would be different from all the rest. Something told us that we were watching the last major address he would ever give.

In his message, he spoke of the importance of doing everything we could to point America toward the day when the nations of the world would turn to us and say: America, you are the model of freedom and prosperity. That was when we would turn to them and say: You "ain't" seen nothing yet.

It was a wonderful catch phrase that had been around for so many years, but it expressed his feeling that when that day came, something even bigger and greater would be about to make its presence felt throughout the Nation. Unfortunately, today when we hear those words, we are reminded not of a great President, but of a Congress that continues to lag further and further behind the expectations it created in the last election.

I know I am not the first one to notice. There have been editorials in the papers asking us when we are going to fulfill the promises that were made in the elections last year by the Democratic majority party.

This is also the anniversary of another event. It was about a year ago that what is now the Democratic Party put together a strategy that proved to be successful and they won both Houses of Congress. People were excited and looking forward to the change the Democrats said the election would bring. It seemed that every Member had a press conference during which he or she offered a long laundry list of legislation that was going to be taken up as soon as possible.

With such a celebrated beginning, you may be wondering why you ain't seen nothing yet. Trust me, you aren't the only one. I don't think you will see any celebrating in the leader's office or the Speaker's office about the past year's results. So much of what they fought so hard to attain has been lost over the past year. So much of the progress they promised and that we all hoped to see has somehow failed to materialize. I do need to note an exception. The HELP Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee that Senator KENNEDY chairs and on which I am the senior Republican, has produced a few bills and virtually all of the bills that have passed. If someone as liberal as Senator KENNEDY and as conservative as I am can move bills, everyone should be able to, but it requires putting aside "gotcha" politics and working for the 80 percent that we can agree on.

Is it any wonder that Congress's approval ratings are at an all-time low?

As the Senate's only accountant, I well remember all of those times I would come to the Senate floor to debate our Nation's budget. The Democratic Party didn't have the numbers back then to control the Senate, so all we heard was a steady stream of complaints from them about the lack of progress that we were making on the budget and the lack of a coherent plan for spending. Now that the shoe is on the other foot and the Democrats are in charge, what have they produced?

We have all heard about the slow boat to China. Well, this is a slow boat that is going nowhere. The same people who criticized the Republican budget, the same people who promise they would do better have instead done worse—a lot worse.

We are long past the start of the fiscal year—about 6 weeks or so—and still only two appropriations bills have been sent to the President, and that was just last week. If you want to find another Congress that was this tardy with spending bills, you would have to go back quite a while, I would imagine. In fact, I think you would have to go back through all of U.S. history.

Remember all the talk we heard about fiscal discipline and controlling spending? Once again, you might be thinking that you ain't seen nothing yet, and you would be right again.

Reminiscent of Everett Dirksen's words that a billion here and a billion there and pretty soon we are talking about real money—the Democratic Party seems unconcerned about the difference between their proposed spending and the President's proposals over the next 5 years. After all, what is \$20 billion or so among friends? We have even had times of gaming to pay for the spending to the tune of nearly \$40 billion.

So what is the record of the Democratic Party so far? Not too good. Are we surprised? The Democrats continue to insist that they support the troops. At the same time they are professing their support for the troops in Iraq, they are suggesting it is time to cut funding off for our military. With our backs against the wall, they have been keeping their foot to the pedal—the brake pedal—when it comes to providing our troops with emergency supplies they need—the body armor, the bullets, the mine-resistant vehicles. These things save lives, and we need to give our troops what they need when they need it so that they will come home safe and sound to their loved ones.

This isn't all. There is a long list of promises made during the last election that haven't been kept. After questioning whether the war in Iraq made us safer, they refused to deal with the reforms we need to gather the intelligence we have to have to keep our people safe.

I am strongly supportive of the rights guaranteed to us by our Constitution. There is no question that our rights as Americans are sacred and they have to be respected. But if you ask the average American if terrorists deserve to be treated as citizens, if terrorists deserve to be treated as citizens and given those same rights, I think you will hear a decisive no. I believe our constituents know they have been kept safe for these past 6 years by this administration, and they want Congress to work together with the administration to continue that pattern of safety. I don't think they want us to work against each other.

When the new Congress began about 11 months ago, we were promised a new attitude. We were told we would be walking arm in arm, working together to make this a better Nation for us all.

Unfortunately, that hasn't happened either. Instead, we have seen a general unwillingness to work together to get things done. The "gotcha" politics. In fact, in 2007, at least 70 cloture motions have been filed by the majority so far. That is the same number of motions filed by the Republicans in the entire 109th Congress spanning 2 years. We are supposed to be here to conduct the people's business. Instead, more often than not, we are just getting the things done on cloture petitions, and that is not getting anything done at all.

How do you get things done? We quit playing "gotcha" politics. We have been on the farm bill for 2 weeks, but there hasn't been a single amendment voted on. There hasn't been a single amendment allowed to be voted on.

I did some checking. The farm bill has never passed without votes. I think we could have done this bill in a week. It came out of committee unanimously. So why not give the rest of the Senators a shot and move on? I have checked. We have always done about 25 amendments on the farm bill, in the history of the farm bill. A lot of them failed, but we have the right to have votes.

Parliamentarily, we have been precluded from having votes, from offering amendments. Until that happens, there is not going to be any progress on the bill. As soon as it happens, there will be progress on the bill.

So how about health care? Well, you ain't seen nothing yet, and I know you will not this year. You may not next year.

Are you concerned about energy? Again, you ain't seen nothing yet. There has to be something done.

How about training our workers for the good jobs that will come during the current global economy? Once again, unfortunately, you ain't seen nothing yet. I am bringing these sentiments to the attention of Congress that could do great things, and does do great things when it wants to, or probably more accurately when it needs to. It can come together with a snap of a finger in a time of crisis.

Remember September 11? We came together not as Democrats or Republicans or Independents. We came together as Americans, and we swore we would work together to make this a better country. Unfortunately, that magic moment didn't last, and it wasn't long before we were back to our old ways.

Sometimes it seems like partisanship and gridlock are just a way of life back here. It doesn't need to be. It doesn't have to be. If we work together and take the action on health care, education reform, and so much more of the Nation's needs, and look to get it done, when we go home to hold town meetings and meet with our constituents

and we are asked what we are doing in Washington to make their lives better, ease their burdens, and make their futures brighter, we will be able to answer truthfully: You ain't seen nothing yet—not because we haven't done anything yet but because we have, and there is a lot more to come. And it can come. We agree on 80 percent of the issues. So if we just do the 80 percent instead of concentrating on the 20 percent we are not going to agree on—but I guess makes good political ads—we can get something done.

As every football fan knows, it takes four quarters to make a football game. We are only coming up on halftime. There is plenty of time to put our heads together and develop a winning strategy—not for our parties but for the American people.

At the close of the speech I referred to earlier, Ronald Reagan said that he hoped we would have the heart to conceive, the understanding to direct, and the hand to execute the works that will make the world a little better for our having been here. That is our charge, our mission—to leave the world a little better than it was when we got here. It is a difficult mission, but it is one we can accomplish. We can accomplish it by joining and working together because the future is quite literally in our hands.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE REGENT-MOTT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I know the Senate is about to adjourn. I wish to take a minute. Last evening, I called a legion club in a small town in southwestern North Dakota, a State I am privileged to represent in the Senate, and said congratulations to a group of young men from my hometown of slightly less than 300 people, Regent, ND, who combined with a school in Mott. The Regent-Mott team won the nine-man State championship football game last week at the Fargo Dome in Fargo, ND. I called last evening to several hundred people who gathered to say congratulations to the players and talk about how proud they were. I wish to add my congratulations today. I told them I was going to do so on the floor of the Senate.

It is a big deal for a small community to have the kind of community pride and the achievement of winning a State championship.

The communities of Regent and Mott—the community I grew up in was a town of 300 people in Regent, ND, and